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## 499–500 The Infernal Caldron and the Phantasmal Vapors ~116~~\$20.00

The demon, Belphegor, the executioner of Hell, awaits the arrival of three unfortunates while watching the fire which burns under an enormous caldron prepared for mortals condemned to the flames of the internal regions. A subaltern proofs the three unfortunates with the teeth of his fork. Belphegor seizes them one by one and throws them into the furmance. Each one of the bodies flames up in its turn, sending into the air long tongues of fire. His assistant arrives and with a long fron rod stirs up the remains of the victims in the caldron. Suddenly three long streaks of smoke come out of it, each one of which leaping about in the air assumes a vague form resembling that of a human being but with a transparent, phantasmal appearance. These are the three souls of the mortals which have been separated from the body, and which seek to escape from the demons. (These living personages move about in the air crossing one another. It is easy to see that these transparent, mysteriously ghostly figures are really airve, but their weird shapes create a sensational curiosity. A very fastinating and absolubly new trick.) But Belphegor does not permit his prey to escape. At a sign from him, the three phantoms fade away and are transformed into three leaping flames—they have become will-o'the-wisps who must forever remain with the vast concourse of Satan's victims. Belphegor, having finished his duties, disappears mysteriously into the caldron, which bursts into pieces and is dissolved into smoke.

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